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COMMUNIST CHINA - ITALY: CHINESE INTRANSIGENCE HAS STALLED ITALIAN EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

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[redacted]

THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR IN PARIS HAS TOLD HIS ITALIAN COUNTERPART THAT ROME MUST ENDORSE PEKING'S CLAIM TO SOVEREIGNTY OVER TAIWAN BEFORE ANY PROGRESS CAN BE MADE. SIMILAR CHINESE DEMANDS HAVE STALEMATED SINO-CANADIAN TALKS THAT BEGAN LAST MAY IN STOCKHOLM.

PEKING HAS AS YET SHOWN NO INCLINATION TO COMPROMISE ITS BASIC POSITION. OTTAWA AND ROME ARE RELUCTANT TO MEET CHINA'S DEMAND, IN PART BECAUSE THEY HOPE TO RETAIN TRADE AND OTHER INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH TAIWAN. AT PRESENT, ALL PARTIES SEEM RESIGNED TO A PROTRACTED PERIOD OF NEGOTIATIONS.

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NOTES

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ISRAEL-SYRIA: FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE ISRAELIS HAVE SHOWN SOME INTEREST IN SWAPPING THE TWO SYRIAN MIG PILOTS WHOM THEY HOLD FOR THE TWO ISRAELI PASSENGERS FROM THE TWA PLANE HIJACKED TO DAMASCUS LAST AUGUST BY ARAB FEDAYEEN.

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IF SYRIA WOULD FIRST RELEASE THE ISRAELIS SOLELY ON US ASSURANCES THAT IT WOULD PRESS ISRAEL TO RELEASE THE PILOTS, THEN THE "US INFLUENCE WOULD BE EFFECTIVE." MOREOVER, ANOTHER HIGH ISRAELI OFFICIAL, WHILE REITERATING THE STANDARD OPPOSITION TO ANY EXCHANGE, SEEMED TO SEE SOME MERIT IN THE ARGUMENT THAT SUCH A SWAP WOULD INVOLVE NO GAIN TO THE HIJACKERS.

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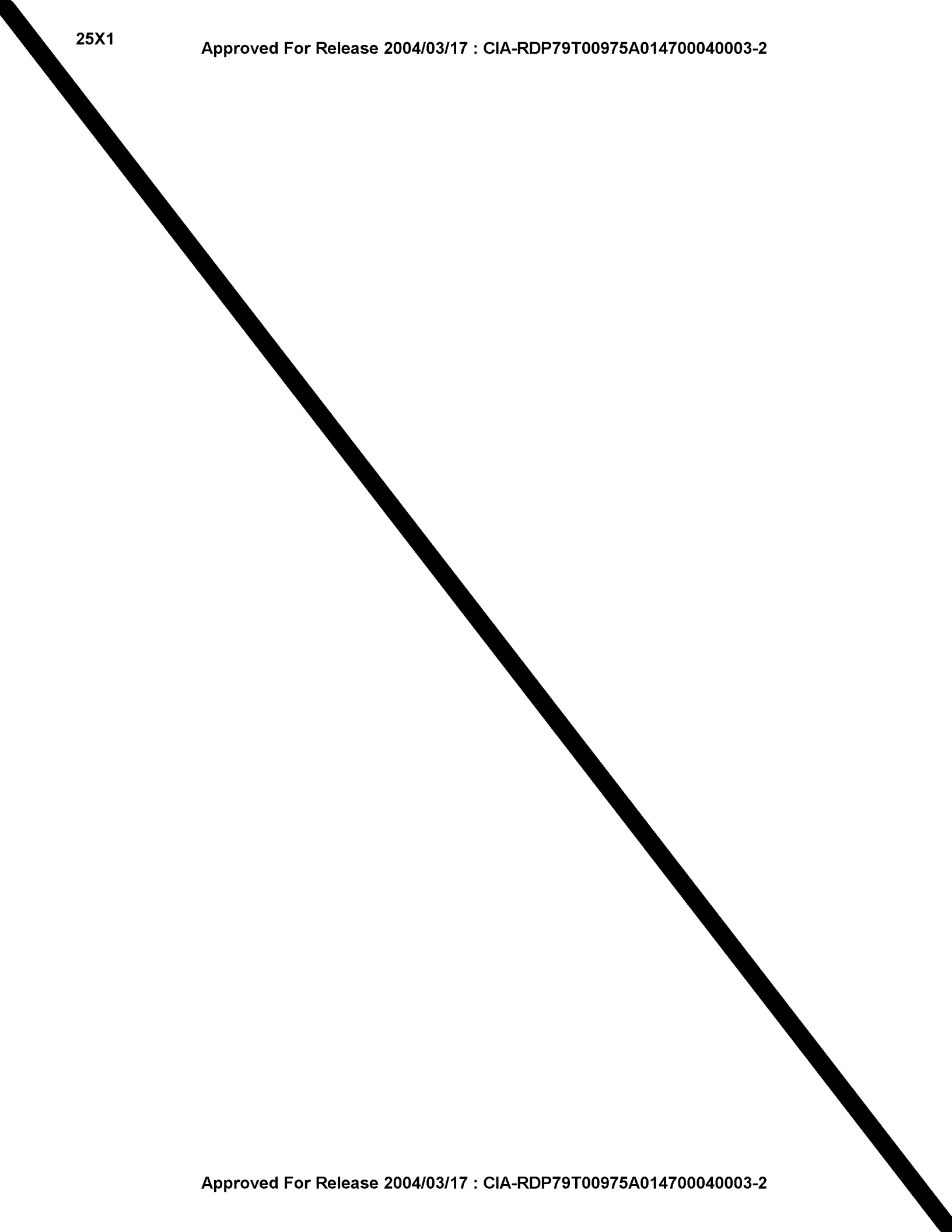

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